

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 18, 1999
MAG Office, Suite 200, Saguaro Room
302 North 1st Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Harry Higgins, Scottsdale, Acting Chairman	Karen Shurko, Goodyear
Debbie Kohn for Desmond McGeough, Avondale	*Horatio Skeete, Litchfield Park
Jeanine Guy for Joe Blanton, Buckeye	*Dan Hansing, Mesa
*Sandra Finkbeiner, Cave Creek	Mark Wheaton for Neil Urban, Maricopa County
Bob Pazera, Chandler	Jenifer Corey, Peoria
*Leonard Rivera, El Mirage	Fred Osgood, Phoenix
Geir Sverdrup, Fountain Hills	Sharon Sargent-Flack, Surprise
*Tina Notah, Gila River Indian Community	Neil Calfee for Atis Krigers, Tempe
*Ralph Vasquez, Gila Bend	Jerry Stricklin, Wickenburg
Hamid Arshadi for George Pettit, Gilbert	*Robert Tatro, Youngtown
Ricardo Toris, Glendale	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Gerard Silvani, ADWR	Heidi Pahl, MAG
Terri Shepherd, ADWR	Shiloh Thatcher, Maricopa County
Paul Michaud, Apache Junction	Matt Holm, Maricopa County
Susan Abbott, Bureau of the Census	John Kross, Queen Creek
Enrique Medina Ochoa, Bureau of the Census	Foster Burton, Retired
Linda Strock, DES	Joanie Mead, Scottsdale
Chris Thomas, Glendale	Kristie Leshinskie, Sun Health Corp.
Don Worley, MAG	Rosemarie Booth, Tolleson
Harry Wolfe, MAG	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Harry Higgins at 10:04 a.m.

2. Call to the Audience

No requests were received from members of the audience to address the MAG POPTAC.

3. Approval of Minutes of February 18, 1999

It was moved by Fred Osgood, seconded by Mark Wheaton and unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes of February 18, 1999.

4. Status Report on Census 2000

Susan Abbott provided a monthly update on Census 2000 issues. Ms. Abbott announced that the State of Arizona Census 2000 Kickoff meeting would be held April 6, 1999, on the second floor of the State Capitol building. Ms. Abbott noted that videoconferencing would be available at this meeting so that people at different sites around the state could participate. She reported that Arizona Governor, Jane Hull, would be in attendance as well as other government officials.

Susan Abbott stated that the Boundary and Annexation (BAS) maps are expected to be mailed to the cities in April 1999. Also, Ms. Abbott announced that the maps for the Census 2000 Redistricting Data Program had not yet been mailed.

Susan Abbott mentioned that American Fact Finder provides census information at the national, state, county or community level. The American Fact Finder can be accessed from the Census Bureau's web site at www.census.gov. Harry Wolfe noted that although the American Fact Finder is not currently operational, a future demonstration using it to extract information would be possible.

Regarding the establishment of complete count committees, Susan Abbott stated that the early Local Census Offices have expanded to include two more areas, one in Scottsdale and one in Mesa. These offices are beginning to create a plan for counting under served populations such as young people, homeless, and minorities in hard to enumerate areas.

Susan Abbott stated that the City of Phoenix will be kicking off their complete count committee on April 23, 1999. She also reported that she is meeting with Maricopa County on March 19, 1999 to discuss efforts to establish complete count committees.

Susan Abbott introduced, Enrique Medina Ochoa, media partnership specialist with the Bureau of the Census. Mr. Ochoa stated that the Bureau of the Census media campaign is one of the largest media campaigns in history.

Mr. Ochoa is responsible for developing media partnerships between cities, especially Spanish speaking cities located on the border of USA and Mexico. He explained that gaining the trust of the Hispanic population is important to a good census count.

5. Efforts by MAG to Enhance Accuracy of Census 2000

Harry Wolfe explained that MAG has been working closely with the Census Bureau to establish a process to ensure that housing units constructed right up to the date of the census are included in Census 2000. Mr. Wolfe expressed concern that the high growth rate of Maricopa County would result in new housing units that were not accounted for in the census.

Harry Wolfe reported that Jim Bourey is working on the development of a plan for providing building permit completion data to the Census Bureau in order to predict what housing units would be constructed by April 1, 2000. According to the plan, the Census Bureau would receive address updates up to April 1, 2000, and

the Census Bureau would use the new addresses to do follow-up checks.

Harry Wolfe mentioned that local jurisdictions should work closely with the local census offices to increase accuracy and timeliness of census staff checking addresses.

6. Address List Review 1999

Harry Wolfe reported that last month, Census Bureau personnel said that the address files for jurisdictions in the update/leave area would be mailed out by March 22, 1999, but based on recent information from the Denver Regional Office, this deadline is likely not to be met.

Harry Wolfe asked Susan Abbott for confirmation that the Address List Review 1999 (ALR'99) materials have in fact not been mailed out by the Census Bureau to local jurisdictions. Susan Abbott confirmed that maps, addresses and block summary files for ALR'99 have not been sent to the jurisdictions.

Harry Wolfe stated that POPTAC members are very concerned about this deadline not being met. Mr. Wolfe informed members that Jim Bourey voiced his concerns about the delay with ALR'99 to Census officials in Washington. Mr. Wolfe also stated that George Pettit sent a letter to Jim Bourey expressing his concern about the ALR'99 deadline not being met.

Mr. Wolfe notified members that the Census Bureau told MAG that if jurisdictions did not meet their deadline, they would be denied the right to participate in the address reconciliation process. Even though the Census Bureau does not require an updated address file for ALR'99, Mr. Wolfe recommended updating the file for the appeals process with the Census Bureau.

Mr. Wolfe noted that concerns are being met by local partnership specialists at the local census offices and that MAG POPTAC members could work with local census officials.

Mr. Wolfe stated that MAG requested the block summary file for ALR'99, but have not yet received it. Susan Abbott stated she would find out when MAG can get the block summary file.

Debbie Kohn asked if there would be anything gained from drafting a resolution explaining the impact of the Census Bureau's missed deadlines with ALR'99. Ms. Kohn requested that the resolution go to Regional Council for approval. Ms. Kohn hoped that such a resolution would have an impact or be helpful to the cause.

Debbie Kohn said that POPTAC members and city staff have concerns about the delays with the Census Bureau and that elected officials should be informed so that they could apply political pressure to the Census Bureau at the appropriate level.

Debbie Kohn asked if MAG staff would draft a general resolution and forward it to MAG Management Committee and then to MAG Regional Council for approval. Mr. Wolfe indicated that a resolution from the POPTAC would not be appropriate, but that it would be addressed by the MAG Management Committee or MAG Regional Council.

There was a suggestion to forward George Pettit's letter to MAG Management Committee with POPTAC endorsement and have Management Committee write a letter in support and forward it to Regional Council.

It was moved by Debbie Kohn, seconded by Sharon Sargent-Flack and unanimously recommended to

forward a resolution to the Census Bureau requesting that the Regional Council express concerns regarding Census 2000 delays.

7. Statistical Areas Program

Matt Holm provided an update on the Census 2000 Participant Statistical Areas Program (SAP) stating that all technical difficulties encountered with SAP have been resolved. Mr. Holm reported that Jim Castagnari from the Census Bureau was helpful in solving these technical difficulties. Mr. Holm announced that Maricopa County received a new coverage with GT polygons, which are geography topology polygons. The GT polygon coverage is a polygon file built from the TIGER line file that reflects the lowest level of polygon that can be built from TIGER. This coverage is being used in the SAP to assign data to the lowest level of geography possible.

Matt Holm reported that the County has completed 75 percent of the process of preparing an electronic submittal reflecting changes to census geography. He reported that the County submitted the database to the Denver Regional Census Bureau Office for their review. He said that Jim Castagnari approved of the work the County had done so far on the SAP.

Mr. Holm said that on April 1, 1999 Maricopa County would send maps to the cities who would have two weeks to review them. Mr. Holm invited cities to work with the County in making changes to census geography. He noted that Avondale and the County added Avondale's recommended changes to SAP together.

Harry Wolfe mentioned that he would be providing to the County the justification for not consolidating 1990 block groups in Census 2000.

8. Water Service Area Resident Population Updates for July 1, 1998

Harry Wolfe reviewed the discussion held in the POPTAC Ad hoc Subcommittee meeting about Water Service Area Resident Population Updates for July 1, 1998.

He explained that MAG takes building permit completion data supplied by member agencies and uses this data to allocate population to the Arizona Department of Water Resource (ADWR) water service areas. Then ADWR reviews and comments on the estimates. The MAG POPTAC recommends approval of the population updates, then MAG Management Committee considers it, and lastly MAG Regional Council approves it.

Ricardo Toris wanted to note that actual population shown for City of Glendale is higher than what is shown in the agenda Attachment Two. Harry Wolfe noted that Glendale had not reported a number of multi-family residential completions by the deadline for preparing the municipality updates. He added that the matter was resolved between Glendale, ADWR and MAG, and that ADWR would take into account the missing units in computing municipality per capita water use targets.

Harry Wolfe requested acceptance of the Water Service Area Resident Population Updates for July 1, 1998. It was moved by Fred Osgood, seconded by Bob Pazera and unanimously recommended to approve the updates.

9. Draft 1999-2000 Municipality Resident Population Projections

Harry Wolfe explained that MAG has updated municipality resident population projections to be consistent with the July 1, 1998 resident population estimates approved by MAG and using Department of Economic Securities (DES) control totals.

He explained that MAG estimated the 1999-2000 population staying within the confines of the DES control totals. Don Worley explained the procedure for calculating the municipality allocation of 1999 and 2000 population. Mr. Worley emphasized that the main constraint was that MAG was operating under fixed 1999-2000 DES control totals.

Harry Wolfe explained that when control totals are revised in year 2000 MAG will update the population projections.

10. Building Completion Status Report

Harry Wolfe reported that MAG is collecting building permit completions for the quarter ending December 31, 1998. He noted that Attachment Four includes a lot more information on residential completions by unit type.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.